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SERVICES DIVISION INDICATIONS JOURNAL

24 June 1955

Development of Logistic Capabilities in Lung T'ien Airfield Area

Aerial photography of 14 May, now available in Washington,^{1/} indicates that the Chinese Communists are nearing completion of a network of roads providing the Lung T'ien Airfield with heavy-duty road connections to the coastal highway to Foochow, and with feeder roads from two deep-water piers on the peninsula south of Lung T'ien. These piers are possibly protected by antiaircraft positions. Roads leading to possible artillery positions on the peninsula opposite Hai T'an Island are also nearing completion. Hai T'an Island is the site of considerable road and military construction activity, and it is noted that these artillery emplacements would be well located for protection of the southern entrance to the Hai T'an straits, between the Island and the Peninsula. These straits could provide a favorable staging area for launching amphibious operations.

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According to a [] report^{2/} based on interrogation of captured Chinese Communist seamen, a sea transport group of about 70 junks organized into units of 10-12 vessels each is operating in the Hai T'an straits area. These vessels are reportedly used to transport cargo between Hai T'an straits and Foochow. The same source also notes that Chinese Communist naval YP's and motorized junks have been patrolling in the straits since 24 May.

It is evident from both the aerial photography and the interrogation reports that the Chinese Communists now have both highway and water supply routes to the Lung T'ien airfield and other militarily significant locations in the area, which is about 50 miles due south of the Matsus and is the nearest mainland point to Formosa. The scope of road and military construction activity both on the peninsula and on Hai T'an Island suggests that the Chinese Communists are not only developing the capability for logistic support of the Lung T'ien Airfield but may also be intending to develop a supply and staging area comparable to that previously noted in the Santuao/Loyuan Bay area just north of the Matsus.

Sources: ^{1/} ORR/D/GP, Secret/Noform

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